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NEARER AND NEARER TO VICTORY.

From the (English) *Methodist Times*.

The principles of Peace are spreading at a much greater rate than appears upon the surface. An almost unprecedented revolution of opinion is taking place, and it is quite likely that the President of the Swiss Confederation was right in his prophecy that "public opinion will one day take a sudden development, and put an end to the barbarism which now prevails." This is how great moral movements are usually accomplished in this world. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, amid the mingled contempt and ignorance of the selfish, nobler ideals arise and divine convictions are formed. Then something, perhaps a very trifling thing, suddenly crystallizes public opinion, and the human race enters upon a new era. A few years ago it was supposed to be a decisive argument against arbitration that there was no possible force to carry out the decisions of a court of arbitration. But historic research has knocked the bottom out of that argument. It appears that when civil tribunals were established in the various civilized countries of Europe as a substitute for private war, barons and other turbulent persons long defied and ignored the decisions of these peaceful tribunals. At their institution there was no adequate police force to carry out their decrees; but step by step public opinion curbed the insolence of the savage feudal aristocracy, and by almost imperceptible stages the civil tribunals of Europe acquired their present irresistible force. A precisely similar course of events is now substituting international law for the brutal arbitrament of the sword. International treaties and the growth of common sense are gradually limiting the area within which savage Governments are permitted to send forth their citizens like sheep to the slaughter. Moreover, the practice of arbitration is actually becoming established as the regular habit of all Governments with any pretence to civilization. Within the last few years there have been more than sixty successful cases of arbitration which at any previous period of history would inevitably have involved desolating, and some of them Continental, wars.

FUSS AND FEATHERS.

It is impossible for the Anglo-Saxon mind to understand why the French should feel justified in going into hysterics because the ex-Empress Frederick of Germany has chosen to pass a few days in Paris and to visit the studios of some French artists. It was desired that at the coming Berlin International Exposition of Fine Arts French art should be represented. But such a shriek of opposition has been raised by "patriotic" Frenchmen that those artists who had agreed to exhibit at Berlin have withdrawn their consent. Meanwhile, although, of course, it is due to a comparatively few persons, apparently Boulangists, an uproar of opposition to the presence in Paris of the ex-Empress has been raised which is as disgraceful to France as it is inherently silly. The ex-Empress now has gone to England, and the ruffled feathers of the French are gradually subsiding. Some political uneasiness has been caused by the incident, but it has not much significance except as illustrating afresh how easy it is for one or two shallow-pated Frenchmen to stir Paris up to a fever heat by shouting about "glory," in spite of the individual self-control of a large part of the population.—*The Congregationalist*.

BURNS AND OTHER BANQUETS.

Alexander Allison, a lover of Scotland and Burns, declined to attend the last celebration of the poet's birthday in Philadelphia, because spirituous liquors were to be drunk on the occasion. He writes:

"In this case it is not so much any antagonism to the liquor in itself, although my feelings in that direction are very strong; it is mainly because of the injury which liquor did to our national poet that I cannot 'add insult to injury' by recognizing its presence in connection with the observance of his natal day.

"When I remember that alcohol so completely enslaved the grandest genius of our native land as to expose him during that awful night to the damp and chilly air, in which he slept off his debauch, in the snow drift, and which brought on his last and fatal illness, how can I consider with patience the presence of his greatest enemy upon an occasion when we meet to honor the poet's memory."

As well give a conspicuous place on Lincoln's birthday festival to the revolver that killed him!—*Advocate and Ensign*.

THE FAITH OF WILLIAM WINDOM.

About a year before his death, conversation leading in this direction, Secretary Windom said to his wife: "Lest I might go, and leave you without an opportunity to say this then, I want you to have the comfort of knowing that if I were to die to-day, it would be in the sure and certain hope of a blessed immortality. That hope is not based on any worthiness of mine, but solely on my abiding trust in the living Redeemer."

We are all his debtors, for the quiet, unheralded demonstration that no official place, how heavy soever its burdens, need prevent one from being an avowed, consistent Christian.—*From the funeral sermon by Rev. T. S. Hamlin, D. D., Washington, D. C.*

WASTING MONEY OR WORSE.

The new fortifications of Antwerp, Belgium, erected since 1860, have cost over \$15,000,000 and are the largest in Europe. They contain a chain of detached forts two to five miles from the inner works and one and a quarter miles apart from one another. Each of these single forts has 700 yards frontage, 120 modern Krupp guns, fifteen mortars, and a garrison of 1000 men. At Metz the Germans have since 1870 laid out \$10,000,000 on military improvements, and at Strasburg over \$12,500,000. Cronstadt, a Russian seaport, was considered by Napier, in 1854, to be impregnable, and it is even more so now. The granite fortifications are very numerous and armed with the heaviest ordnance.

There is significance in the fact that two of the largest manufactories of weapons of warfare in the country have turned their forces—or a part of their forces at least—to the manufacture of "weapons of peace." The Remington Company are becoming more widely known for their type-writers than they ever were for their rifles, and the famous old Colt's Armory is now used for the manufacture of the "Colt's Armory printing press," one of the leading job presses in the market.—*Peace Banner*.